

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 19-22 are active. Claims 1 and 2 are independent claims. Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and claims 19-22 depend from claim 1. Claims 23 and 24 have been added and depend from claim 1.

The Specification is objected to as not supporting the feature that the belt-shaped transparent composite plastic sheet includes a polyethylene terephthalate sheet. Similarly the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 14 and 19-22 under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner questions the phrase "composite plastic sheet" in the specification and claims on the basis that the Specification only supports replacement of the PET sheet 40 by a biaxially oriented polypropylene sheet. It is true that lines 1-2 at page 13 of the Specification state that "the PET sheet 40 can be replaced by a biaxially oriented polypropylene sheet" and that lines 10-22 on page 12 of the Specification refer to the "polyethylene terephthalate (PET) sheet 40". Reference is also made to line 8, page 12 to line, page 13. PET is polyethylene terephthalate.

However, at lines 6-13 on page 13 of the Specification it is stated that:

A raw material of the medicine wrapping sheet 20 is constituted of a belt-shaped transparent composite plastic sheet 42 formed by bonding and laminating a low-density polyethylene sheet 41, on a backside of a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) sheet 40 (Fig. 3).

Therefore, the wrapping sheet 20 composed of PET sheet 40 or a biaxially oriented polypropylene sheet in combination with a low density polyethylene sheet 41 forms the composite plastic sheet.

Main claims 1 and 2 have been amended to more completely define the structure of the package relative to its side edges and the structure that the notches are not thermally fused. It also is set forth that the thermal fusing is carried out in an orthogonal direction to that of the wrapping sheet to form the package. New claims 23 and 24 set forth further details of the line of perforations relative to the notches and the fused area that form the individual wrapping bags.

This has an advantage in that it aids in allowing even an aged person or a child to easily open a divided wrapping bag with bare hands since the divided and wrapped medicines can be guided not along the fused part but the folded part (non-fused part). Thus, it is possible to obtain

highly effective operation effects, e.g., a capability of removing from the package all of its contents, even fine particles, such as powder medicines, without leaving any.

As set forth in the claims, the portions in which the notches are formed are not thermally fused. Therefore, leakage of the raw material of the medicine wrapping sheet melted from the notch part of the triangular shape can be prevented. Thus, it is possible to prevent inconveniences such as sticking of the raw material of the medicine wrapping sheet that had leaked to the medicine wrapping machine and to prevent deterioration of the appearance of a divided wrapping bag.

Claims 1, 14, 21 and 22 are rejected over the combination of Takemasa, et al., U.S. 5,908,113 in view of Kai, et al., U.S. 5,038,547. Claims 2, 3, 19 and 20 are rejected over the combination of Takemasa and Kai, and further relying on Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-18256 or Japanese Publication No. 05-49646.

As conceded by the Examiner in the Office Action, the Takemasa reference does not disclose the use of polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Further, Takemasa does not disclose “the side edge parts of the belt-shaped medicine wrapping sheet are of wavy or saw-tooth shape and have triangular notches that overlap when the sheet is folded and are joined and thermally fused to each other along the length of the belt-shaped sheet except in the area of the triangular notches” as currently recited in the claims. The only saw-tooth notches in Takemasa are orthogonal to the edges as shown in Fig. 8. The examiner cited the reference to Kai for its use of polypropylene to provide additional strength. However, it has neither of the features missing from Takemasa.

The Japanese Publication No. 05-49646, like Takemasa, discloses saw-tooth notches orthogonal to the edges of the belt-shaped medicine wrapping sheet. At most the Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-18256 shows minute flaws formed on one side of the sheet, but does not otherwise disclose the elements missing from Takemasa.

Thus the art cited by the Examiner taken alone or in any reasonable combination neither teaches nor suggests the novel subject matter of the claims as now amended. Therefore, these claims are patentable and should be allowed.

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Prompt and favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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